

REMARKS

With the above amendments, claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-22 remain in the application and stand finally rejected. Claims 5 and 15 have been canceled. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested as they place the claims in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following reasons.

Substance of Examiner Interview

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the interview conducted on July 18, 2007. Claim 5 and the Ho reference were discussed during the interview. The undersigned explained to the Examiner that claim 5 requires the perforations to be located at least between adjacent solar cells, while Ho has slots at the end of the tabs 1304 on one of the solar cells. The Examiner explained that claim 5, as then written, can be interpreted as simply having the perforations in a strain relief area. The Examiner invited the undersigned to rewrite claim 5 to clarify the location of the perforations. No agreement was reached.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 has been amended to particularly recite that the recited perforations in the interconnect leads are located at least between the adjacent solar cells in an area not attached to either solar cell. U.S. Publication No. 2004/0040593 by Ho (“Ho”) and the other references of record do not teach or suggest this limitation. In Ho, the slots are on an end of the tabs 1304 on one of the solar cells, not between solar cells. For further clarification, claim 1 has also been amended to recite that this area is not attached to either of the solar cells. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, and for similar reasons independent claims 11, 17, and 20, are now patentable over Ho and the other references of record. The remaining claims are patentable at least for depending on patentable base claims.

Conclusion

For at least the above reasons, it is believed that claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-22 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408)436-2112 for any questions.

If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-2427.

Respectfully submitted,
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